## IAFN Certification Examination Frequently Asked Questions

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***Does every test candidate take the same test?***

No. To ensure that the IAFN SANE-A and SANE-P examinations are current and relevant, IAFN regularly updates the test forms. Thus, a candidate may receive a test form that contains a different set of test items than another examinee receives.

***Do the test forms differ in the content being tested?***

No. Each examination test form is built to a standardized test blueprint. The test blueprint determines the content on which a candidate is tested, regardless of the test form that the candidate receives.

***Is one form easier than another?***

Maybe. To maintain fairness and treat all candidates equally, however, IAFN ensures that all test forms are comparable in content and level of difficulty. Since the items on each form may not be identical, the items on one test form may differ slightly in difficulty (be harder or easier) than another test form. To compensate, IAFN considers these differences when setting the passing score for each test form. This helps ensure that candidates at the same skill level will pass the examination even if one form is more difficult than another.

***What is a passing score?***

The passing score is the number of items that a candidate must answer correctly to pass the examination. Each test form has its own passing score, adjusted based on its level of difficulty.

Using a criterion-referenced process, the IAFN Examination Committee establishes the passing standard for its test forms. During this process, committee members determine the acceptable level of competency required to pass the examination.

***What is a scaled score?***

A scaled score is a mathematical conversion of the number of items that a candidate correctly answers, which is then transposed on a consistent scale that is used across all forms of the examination.

Imagine a conversion from pounds to kilograms; the weight of the object does not change, the change occurs in the units in which the weight is reported.

The IAFN SANE-A and SANE-P use these scales:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Minimum Score | Maximum Score | Passing Score |
| **SANE-A** | 200 | 800 | 500 |
| **SANE-P** | 200 | 800 | 500 |

***Why use scaled scores?***

Scaled scores allow for direct comparisons of scores across different test forms of the same examination. In contrast, raw scores cannot be similarly compared, because those scores reflect the results of candidates who may have received test forms that differed slightly in difficulty level.

In addition, scaled scores facilitate comparisons over time. Regardless of which test form a candidate takes, the scale remains constant.

The use of scaled scores also matches IAFN’s goals. IAFN adheres to certification standards, which discourage the use of raw (and percent) scores. Scaled scores meet the standard to provide clear, interpretable information.

***Why not use the percent of items answered correctly?***

Percent correct scores are a type of raw scores and do not permit comparison of scores across different test forms. The best practice is to use a scaled score that avoids confusion with other scores.

***How is the passing standard transferred to a scaled passing score?***

For scaled scores, the passing standard on any test form of the examination is always reported as the same scaled score. The IAFN SANE-A and SANE-P are reported on a scale of 200 to 800; the passing score is always 500, regardless of which test form a candidate takes.

***Do scaled scores change who passes or fails?***

No. Scaled scores **DO NOT** affect individual candidate pass or fail decisions. The pass/fail determination is always made by comparing the number of items answered correctly to the number of items required to pass the test form (as established by the IAFN Examination Committee).

Candidates who correctly answer more items than are required to pass the test form obtain a scaled score that is between the scale’s passing score and

the maximum scaled score (e.g., 500 to 800). Candidates who do not answer a sufficient number of items to pass the test form obtain a scaled score that is between the minimum to just below the scaled passing score (e.g., 200 to 499).

***Can I reliably compare the SANE-A and the SANE-P results?***

No. The SANE-A and the SANE-P examinations test different areas of knowledge. This means that a score on the SANE-A is **NOT** equivalent to a similar score on the SANE-P.

***How do I interpret my performance?***

Your scaled score allows you to compare your performance to other candidates who took the same certification examination.

IAFN will provide information on how other candidates performed on the examination. The scaled score allows candidates who plan to retake the examination to compare their different testing sessions.